

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03623 091413 Z

47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 NEAE-00 /132 W

----- 014631

P R 091230 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8355

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3623

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ANALYSIS OF LEBANESE- FEDAYEEN CONFRONTATION

1. MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VERED OFMFA TOLD EMBOFF MAY 9 THAT IN HER VIEW, QUESTION IS HOW FAR SYRIA WILL GO TO SUPPORT FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI INFORMATION, THERE WAS SOME INFILTRATION OF SAIQA INTO LEBANON AFTERNOON OF MAY 8, BUT INFILTRATION NUMBERED IN HUNDREDS, NOT THOUSANDS, SHE SAID. SHE DID NOT KNOW IF INFILTRATION WAS CONTINUING. POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT REGULAR SYRIAN TROOPS WOULD BE INFILTRATED UNDER COVER OF FEDAYEEN.

2. NOTING THAT LEBANESE ARMY HAD WITHDRAWN UNITS FROM SOUTH AS REENFORCEMENTS FOR BEIRUT, MRS VERED ASSESSED ARMY AS PUSHING FOR REVISION OF BASIS OF GOL- FEDAYEEN RELATIONSHIP AND END OF CAIRO AGREEMENT. MAY 7 CEASEFIRE UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN TANTAMOUNT TO RECONFIRMATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT, SHE SAID, AND ARMY WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS. ARMY HAD ENOUGH SELF-CONFIDENCE TO FEEL IT COULD AFFORD TEMPORARY WEAKENESS IN SOUTH IF IT COULD GET UPPERHAND IN BEIRUT AREA, AND AS OF MAY 8, ARMY NOT FEDAYEEN WERE ONES TAKING INITIATIVE.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03623 091413 Z

3. MRS VERED SAID IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL HOW SUCCESSFUL ARMY
WILL BE. SHE PREDICTED THAT SITUATION WOULD NOT QUIET DOWN FOR
LONG AND SERIES OF SMALL CONFRONTATIONS WOULD ENSUE, BUT THAT
FUTURE CLASHES OF MAGNITUDE OF MAY 7 FIGHTING WERE NOT VERY
LIKELY.
ZURHELLEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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CAIRO
JERUSALEM
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

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